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WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA
AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 21 May-1 June 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General

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Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 21 May to 1 June 2001. The session will be opened by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that the body in question "adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda".

3. In its decision PC.1/8 adopted at its first session, the Preparatory Committee proposed a provisional agenda for its second session. In accordance with that decision, the Preparatory Committee will have before it the provisional agenda (A/CONF.189/PC.2/1) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure.

Item 3. Organization of work

4. In view of the limited time available to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, the Committee may wish to adopt decisions concerning the organization of its work, including on the frequency and duration of statements, the opening and closure of the list of speakers, and the submission of draft decisions.

5. The attention of the Preparatory Committee is drawn to the relevant resolutions concerning control and limitation of documentation (inter alia, the latest General Assembly resolutions, 52/214 , 53/208 B and 54/248 C). In this regard, it is also brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee that some documents prepared for the present session, in view of their length or late submission, cannot be issued in all official languages, the Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva having insufficient capacity to translate documents that greatly exceed the page limits established by the General Assembly.

6. In its decision PC.1/5, the Preparatory Committee noted that the mechanism established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1996/31 should be the framework for accreditation of non-governmental organizations. In the same decision, the Preparatory Committee established a procedure for interim accreditation of non-governmental organizations by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, in consultation with regional groups, during the period of time between the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee. This same decision provided, however, that in the event a Government raises questions concerning the

accreditation of a non-governmental organization, the final decision on those cases shall be taken by the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with the standard process set out in Council resolution 1996/31. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a note by the secretariat on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference (A/CONF.189/PC.2/11).

Item 4. Submission of the provisional agenda, venue of the World Conference and practical issues

7. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General relating to the provisional agenda for the World Conference, the venue of the World Conference and practical issues (A/CONF.189/PC.2/10).

Item 5. Reports of preparatory meetings and activities at the international, regional and national levels

8. In its resolution 1999/78, the Commission on Human Rights requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake activities, including seminars at the expert level, in preparation for the World Conference. Since the first session of the Preparatory Committee, four regional expert seminars have been held. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the reports of these regional seminars of experts held, respectively, in Warsaw on the protection of minorities and other vulnerable groups and strengthening human rights capacity at the national level (A/CONF.189/PC.2/2); in Bangkok on migrants and trafficking in persons with particular reference to women and children (A/CONF.189/PC.2/3); in Addis Ababa on the prevention of ethnic and racial conflicts (A/CONF.189/PC.2/4); and in Santiago de Chile on economic, social and legal measures to combat racism with particular reference to vulnerable groups (A/CONF.189/PC.2/5). The Preparatory Committee will also have before it the report of an expert group meeting on gender and racial discrimination held in Zagreb (A/CONF.189/PC.2/20).

9. In its resolution 1999/78, the Commission requested the High Commissioner to help States and regional organizations, on request, to convene, inter alia, regional meetings. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the reports of four regional meetings that took place, respectively, in Strasbourg (A/CONF.189/PC.2/6), Santiago de Chile (A/CONF.189/PC.2/7), Dakar (A/CONF.189/PC.2/8) and Tehran (A/CONF.189/PC.2/9).

Item 6. Review of reports, studies and other documentation for the Preparatory Committee and the World Conference

Research and consultations on the use of the Internet

10. In its resolution 1999/78, the Commission requested the High Commissioner to undertake research and consultations on the use of the Internet for purposes of incitement to racial hatred, racist propaganda and xenophobia, and to study ways of promoting international cooperation in this area. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a report on this subject (A/CONF.189/PC.2/12).

Reports by special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights

11. In its resolution 54/154, the General Assembly requested the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin), and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants, Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro (Costa Rica), to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and its preparations to the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will have before it the contributions of the Special Rapporteurs on racism (A/CONF.189/PC.2/21) and migrants (A/CONF.189/PC.2/23).

12. In its resolution 1999/78, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia), to prepare studies on action to combat incitement to hatred and religious intolerance. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a study undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on this subject (A/CONF.189/PC.2/22).

13. In its resolution 2000/38, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. Abid Hussain (India), to contribute effectively to the World Conference by transmitting to the High Commissioner his recommendations on freedom of opinion and expression which have a bearing on the World Conference. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a study on this subject (A/CONF.189/PC.2/24).

Contribution of human rights treaty bodies

14. In its resolution 54/154, the General Assembly requested the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the contribution of the Committee (A/CONF.189/PC.2/13).

15. In its resolution 54/154, the General Assembly also requested other human rights mechanisms to undertake reviews and to submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a series of documents containing the respective contributions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/CONF.189/PC.2/16); the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/CONF.189/PC.2/28); the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/CONF.189/PC.2/15); the Committee against Torture (A/CONF.189/PC.2/17); and the Human Rights Committee (A/CONF.189/PC.2/14). The Preparatory Committee will also have before it the joint contribution of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies (A/CONF.189/PC.2/18).

Contribution of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

16. In its resolution 2000/14, the Commission invited the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to participate actively in the preparatory process for the World Conference. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a contribution submitted by the Sub-Commission (A/CONF.189/PC.2/19).

17. The Preparatory Committee will also have before it a working paper submitted by Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, member of the Sub-Commission, submitted as part of the contribution of the Sub-Commission (A/CONF.189/PC.2/19/Add.1).

Contributions by non-governmental organizations

18. The secretariat has received a number of contributions from non-governmental organizations which have been accredited to the Preparatory Committee. These documents will bear the symbol A/CONF.189/PC.1/NGO/... For each contribution received, a separate document with an identifying number will be issued.

Item 7. Draft declaration and programme of action

19. At the first session of the inter-sessional open-ended working group, held from 6 to 9 March 2001, the secretariat was requested to prepare a compilation that would contain the secretariat's draft declaration and programme of action (A/CONF.189/WG.1/3) and the final documents adopted by the regional intergovernmental conferences held in Strasbourg (A/CONF.189/PC.2/6), Santiago de Chile (A/CONF.189/PC.2/7), Dakar (A/CONF.189/PC.2/8) and Tehran (A/CONF.189/PC.2/9). The Preparatory Committee will have before it the document requested (A/CONF.189/PC.2/29).

20. Also at the first session of the inter-sessional open-ended working group, a first reading of the secretariat's draft declaration and programme of action was begun but not finished. At the second session of the inter-sessional open-ended working group, held from 7 to 11 May 2001 and which was of an informal character, the first reading of the secretariat's draft declaration and programme of action was completed. During the first reading of the text, the secretariat, at the request of the participating States, noted additional proposals made by delegations. It was understood to be an exercise in adding proposals to the secretariat's draft and not as a negotiating session. The presence of brackets around some parts of the text may indicate issues of particular concern, but the absence of brackets does not indicate consensus or approval. The Preparatory Committee will have before it a document containing the proposals made at the first and second sessions of the inter-sessional open-ended working group (A/CONF.189/PC.2/27).

Item 8. Organization of the work of the World Conference and other matters

21. The secretariat will prepare, at the request of the Preparatory Committee, documentation relevant to this agenda item so that it may be considered prior to the conclusion of the Preparatory Committee's second session.

Item 9. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly

22. At the conclusion of its second session, it is expected that the Preparatory Committee will adopt a report for submission to the General Assembly.